

**CHANGED CLAIMS**

(arrived on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005 (28.02.2005) in the International Bureau; original claims 1-3 changed, all further claims unchanged (1 page))

**Claims**

1. Natural stone panel floor, the floor panels (1) of which are laid at a distance from each other next to each other and comprise, respectively, a groove (11) which is arranged on the lateral surfaces thereof (10) and whereby, respectively, a plastic spacer (2) is arranged between adjacent floor panels (1), said spacer supporting a clamping crosspiece (20, 21) on both sides thereof, which is maintained in a clamped manner in the respective groove (11), and whereby the stone panels (1), at their upper edges, exhibit a chamfer (12), which, together with an upper joint region (24A), is flexibly sealed, characterized in that the clamping crosspieces (20, 21) present, towards the top, an essentially flat reference surface (22) with short soft plastic knobs (24B) formed by injection and only at the bottom have retaining lamellas (23) of a conical shape, and that the spacer (2) extends, in a self-sealing manner, with its upper joint region (24A) into the regions

of the chamfers (12), this part of the spacer consisting of a softer flexible material than the rest.

2. Natural stone panel floor according to claim 1, characterized in that the grooves (11) are formed in the sides of the stone panel (1) at a symmetrical height.

3. Natural stone panel floor according to claim 1, characterized in that the grooves (11) are 3 mm high and more than 6 mm deep.

CHANGED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)